

## **Car Seat Safety For 2011**

In April of 2011, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) revised its policy on car seat safety. The following is a brief summary of the policy.

- Children should be rear facing in a car seat until they are two years of age or until they reach the maximum height or weight for their car seat. ( 30 of the 35 convertible car seats on the market can accommodate children up to 35 pounds in a rear facing position. This means more than 95% of all children less than 2 years can fit in a rear facing seat.)
- Smaller children will benefit from rear facing longer, while other children may reach the maximum height or weight before two years of age.
- Children who outgrow their rear facing seat should be moved to a forward facing seat with a harness, until they reach the maximum height or weight for the forward facing seat
- Older children who outgrow their forward facing seat should be in a booster seat until they are 4 feet 9 inches tall.
- Children should ride in the rear of a vehicle until they are 13 years old.

### **Many of our parents have asked**

“Why does my baby have to be in a rear facing car seat until he or she is more than 2 years old?”

### **We want our parents to know the following facts:**

- Children under age 2 are 75% safer rear facing than forward facing.
- Children in the second year of life are five times less likely to die or be seriously injured in a crash if rear facing than forward facing.
- Only approximately 1 in 1,000 children who are rear facing will suffer a lower extremity injury. That rate is much higher for forward facing children.
- The back seat is the safest place for all children to ride.

At South East Bay Pediatrics, your child's pediatrician endorses the AAP policy of car seat safety.